September 28, 2016

Dear Members of the Alabama A&M University Community:

I write in response to the recent news about incidents of sexual violence or misconduct on the campus of Alabama A&M University (AAMU). Let me assure you that the University remains committed to creating a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff. Sexual assault and misconduct are serious problems in society and unfortunately spills over onto college campuses across the country. Thus, it is my desire for the AAMU community to be informed and prepared to address concerns regarding sexual assault and prevention on the campus of AAMU.

As in previous years, all students are encouraged to complete the HAVEN sexual assault prevention e-training (link provided in your official bulldog email account). HAVEN is the premier online training program addressing issues of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual harassment among students, faculty and staff. Faculty and staff are encouraged to contact the Office of Human Resources to obtain training information.

Addressing campus safety, to include sexual violence and misconduct, is one of my highest priorities. The University has taken steps to reinforce safety, and will continue to take appropriate actions, to eliminate such misconduct on campus. These steps include:

- Closing the Drake Street gate (at the Post Office) at 6:00 p.m., daily.
- New visitor registration process for Normal Hills.
  - Visitors must check-in with the security guard, leaving his/her identification.
  - The host must meet his/her visitor at the security gate to sign him/her in.
- The Taylor and Industrial Street gate will remain locked, unless opened for an event.
- Residence Hall visitors must check-in with Hall Staff.
- Adding student representation to the Sexual Misconduct and Assault Response Team (S.M.A.R.T).
- Implementation of an escort system. Call the Department of Public Safety at 256-372-5555 if you require assistance.
- Increased the number of Security Officers patrolling the campus.
- Installation of additional lighting across campus.
- Additional avenues to report sexual violence and misconduct.
  - Department of Public Safety, 256-372-5555 (24/7 reporting)
  - Ms. Cassandra Tarver-Ross, Title IX Coordinator, 256-372-5835
  - Health and Counseling Center, 256-372-5601
In addition to these updates, the University will continue to host campus-wide forums on Race, Justice, and Hope; provide electronic safety tips; a review of policies and programs by S.M.A.R.T.; and offer self-defense classes. Please continue to monitor your official bulldog email account for more information. You are also reminded to exercise caution while on-campus and in the community to include avoid traveling alone, particularly at night.

Eliminating sexual violence and misconduct must be a priority for all of us at the University. I thank you for your transparent input, views and concerns. To learn more about available resources as well as how to report sexual violence and misconduct on our campus, visit http://www.aamu.edu/administrativeoffices/hrservices/Pages/Title-IX.aspx.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hugine, Jr., Ph.D.
President